

Vanishing Gold Dollars.

Almost all our gold dollars are being used for purposes of adornment, and as a medium of exchange they have long been doomed, said an official of the Philadelphia Mint. We are only coining about five thousand per year for monetary circulation, and this small amount is meant by the Treasury Department to be merely for the purpose of keeping enough on hand to make change in paying depositors of gold bullion. If it were not for this, probably the coinage of gold dollars would be suspended.

Nearly all the gold dollars in existence have been turned into articles of jewelry or are in private desks or bureaus to be kept as keepsakes. This disuse of the gold dollar as a medium of exchange has been caused by its small size, being so diminutive that the possessor is continually alarmed lest it might drop through the seams of the pocket. On March 3, 1899, the United States Mint was authorized by law to coin \$1 gold pieces. The weight fixed for the coin was 25.8 grains, and the degree of fineness 900. Immediately upon the coin's introduction to the people it received a cold shoulder, because of its inconvenient size.

The Treasury authorities endeavored to obviate this unpopularity of the coin in 1885, when it was ordered to be made thinner, and consequently greater in diameter. But this enlargement of the surface of the gold dollar did not suffice to clear away the popular opinion that the coin was too small. After the coinage of gold dollars was virtually stopped there came a rage for gold-dollar baubles. The young man in society was obliged, in order to keep on good terms with the fair sex, to give them coins to jingle from their bracelet. Silver dimes had first caught the popular eye, but in a very short time silver-bangled bracelets were thought common, and gave place to gold ones.

Within the past few years the gold dollar has been branching into additional directions. They are being given to old couples celebrating the golden anniversary of their marriage, and sent to Americans living in foreign lands, who want them for keepsakes. There has, consequently, been an enormous demand for the coin, which, on account of the small number coined yearly, cannot be met. Bankers, with an eye for a good thing, have brokers in large cities, who gather up all the gold dollars that can be found. One bank in this city is known to have sold 5,000 gold dollars within the past two years.

The Dog Did Not Understand English.

Paul Montonnier is the proud owner of a very fine dog and he loves that dog as he loves his life. Some time ago Paul made a trip to the Pacific coast, and he cast about for some good friends who would care for his canine pet while he was away. He at last found a good man and he went away happy in the thought that his dog would be well taken care of. Some weeks later he returned to Chicago, and his first move was to call for his dog.

"For heaven's sake take him away!" cried the friend as Paul appeared, "and don't leave him with me again. Why didn't you tell me that the dog couldn't understand English? I can't speak French and he didn't heed a word I said to him."

Paul had always commanded the dog in French, and, as his friend said, he did not understand or heed English commands. He had been in the pound three times and had cost his temporary keeper something like \$20 during his owner's absence. He advised Paul to send his canine to night school.—*Chicago Herald.*

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The receipts from the Paris octroi for the nine completed months of this year were 8,902,602 francs greater than in the same months of 1888. That is what an exhibition does for a city. The increase in taxes represented an increased business in the commodities brought into the city of Paris of more than fifteen million dollars.

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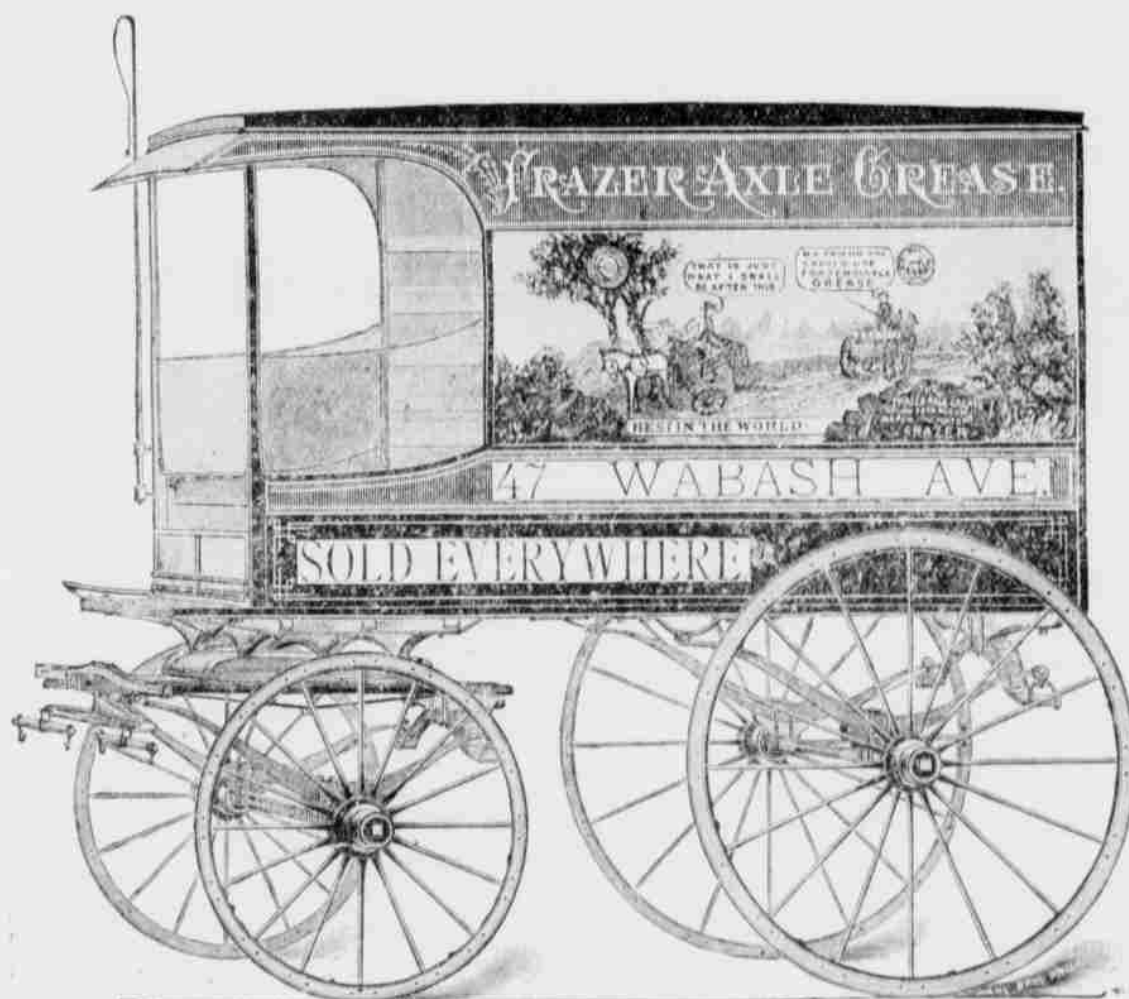
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